

In the Claims

Claim ~~6~~¹ (Previously presented). An *in vitro* screening method for identifying insect tolerant genotypes or clones, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) growing plantlets in an *in vitro* system;
- b) screening the plantlets for molecular variation of somaclones using RAPD analysis *in vitro*;
- c) selecting the somaclones having molecular variation;
- d) exposing the somaclones of step c) to insect larvae or nymphs; and
- e) identifying the surviving somaclones.

Claims ~~7~~² (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~6~~¹, further comprising growing the surviving somaclones into adult plants.

Claim ~~8~~³ (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~6~~¹ wherein the somaclones are somaclones of *Mentha arvensis*.

Claim ~~9~~⁴ (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~6~~¹, wherein the insect larvae is *Spilarctia obliqua*.

Claim ~~10~~⁵ (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~6~~¹, wherein the insect larvae is third or fourth instar larvae.

Claim ~~11~~⁶ (Previously presented) The method according to claim ~~6~~¹, wherein the somaclones are generated vegetatively by tissue culture, glass house, or in the field by asexual reproduction methods.

Claim ~~12~~⁷ (Previously presented). An *in vitro* screening method for identifying insect tolerant genotypes or clones, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) growing plantlets in an *in vitro* system;
- b) screening the plantlets for molecular variation of somaclones using RAPD analysis *in vitro*;

- c) selecting the somaclones having molecular variation;
- d) exposing the somaclones of step c) to insect larvae or nymphs;
- e) identifying the surviving somaclones; and
- f) growing the surviving somaclones into adult plants.

8
Claim 13 (Previously presented). An *in vitro* screening method for identifying insect tolerant genotypes or clones, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) growing plantlets in an *in vitro* system;
- b) screening the plantlets for molecular variation of somaclones of *Mentha arvensis* using RAPD analysis *in vitro*;
- c) selecting the somaclones of *Mentha arvensis* having molecular variation;
- d) exposing the somaclones of step c) to insect larvae or nymphs;
- e) identifying the surviving somaclones of *Mentha arvensis*; and
- f) growing the surviving somaclones into adult *Mentha arvensis* plants.